



The  
Patent  
Office

PCT/GB 97 / 00577

The Patent Office  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
Gwent  
NP9 1RH

REC'D	22 APR 1997
WIPO	PCT

09/142095

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

Dated

- 9 APR 1997



PRIORITY DOCUMENT

9605598.3

# Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

THE PATENT OFFICE  
16 MAR 1996

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road  
Newport  
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

P172181/CMC/RMC

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

The University Court of The University  
of Dundee  
Tower Building  
DUNDEE  
DD1 4HN

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

6959340001

4. Title of the invention

"Drug Trial Assay System"

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Murgitroyd & Company  
373 Scotland Street  
GLASGOW  
G5 8QA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

1198013

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number  
(if you know it)

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
  - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
  - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form	-
Description	22
Claim(s)	-
Abstract	-
Drawing(s)	5

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents	-
Translations of priority documents	-
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	-
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	-
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)	-
Any other documents (please specify)	-

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *Murgitroyd & Company* Date 15 March 1996  
(MURGITROYD & COMPANY)

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom
- Roisin McNally 0141 307 8400

#### Warning

*After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.*

#### Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.*
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.*
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.*
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.*
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.*
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.*

1 "Drug Trial Assay System"

2

3 The present invention relates to drug trials, usually  
4 carried out for or on behalf of pharmaceutical  
5 companies. More particularly the invention relates to  
6 a method for improving the efficacy of drug trials.

7

8 In the different stages of drug trials, regulatory  
9 authorities in different European countries and the FDA  
10 in the USA require extensive data to be provided in  
11 order to approve use of the drugs.

12

13 It is important that as much information as possible is  
14 available in relation to all participants who take part  
15 in drug trials, from volunteers who take part in phase  
16 1 trials to patients involved in stage 3 clinical  
17 trials.

18

19 In particular, if certain individuals or groups of  
20 individuals have severe or abnormal reactions to drug  
21 administration, further studies involving that drug  
22 will be in jeopardy unless the reason for the reaction  
23 is realised.

24

25 The knowledge of pharmacogenetics can play an important

1 role in understanding the impact of drug metabolism on  
2 pharmacokinetics, role of receptor variants in drug  
3 response and in the selection of patient populations  
4 for clinical studies.

5  
6 Considerable effort has been expended in attempting to  
7 identify the pharmacogenetic basis of idiosyncratic  
8 adverse drug reactions, particularly hypersensitivity  
9 reactions. While there is clear evidence for  
10 pharmacogenetic influence on susceptibility to  
11 hypersensitivity reactions, necessary and sufficient  
12 pharmacogenetic defects have not been identified.

13  
14 The clinical implications of genetic polymorphism in  
15 drug metabolism have been studied extensively (See  
16 Tucker GT (1994) Journal Pharmacology 46 pages 417-  
17 424).

18  
19 Gilbert's Syndrome (GS) is a benign unconjugated  
20 hyperbilirubinaemia occurring in the absence of  
21 structural liver disease and overt haemolysis and  
22 characterized by episodes of mild intermittent  
23 jaundice. It is part of a spectrum of familial  
24 unconjugated hyperbilirubinaemias including the more  
25 severe Crigler-Najjar (CN) syndromes (types 1 and 2).  
26 GS is the most common inherited disorder of hepatic  
27 bilirubin metabolism occurring in 2-12% of the  
28 population and is often detected in adulthood through  
29 routine screening blood tests or the fasting associated  
30 with surgery/intercurrent illness which unmasks the  
31 hyperbilirubinaemia<sup>1-3</sup>. The most consistent feature in  
32 GS is a deficiency in bilirubin glucuronidation but  
33 altered metabolism of drugs has also been reported<sup>3-5</sup>.  
34 Altered rates of bilirubin production, hepatic haem  
35 production and altered hepatic uptake of bilirubin have  
36 been reported in some GS patients<sup>2</sup>.

1 Due to the benign nature of the syndrome and its  
2 prevalence in the population it may be more appropriate  
3 to consider GS as a normal genetic variant<sup>2</sup> exhibiting a  
4 reduced bilirubin glucuronidation capacity (which in  
5 certain situations such as fasting, illness or  
6 administration of drugs) could precipitate jaundice.

7  
8 In drug trials where high levels of serum total  
9 bilirubin is detected for certain individuals, it is  
10 not clear whether this is because the individuals have  
11 Gilbert's Syndrome or if it because of an effect of the  
12 drug. Whereas presently, results are explained merely  
13 by saying that the individuals have Gilbert's Syndrome,  
14 it is suspected that in the future, it will be  
15 necessary to prove this fact.

16  
17 Where a jaundiced phenotype is apparent after  
18 volunteers have been accepted for a trial and have been  
19 subjected to five days of a strict diet, no alcohol and  
20 no smoking, the jaundiced appearance giving an  
21 indication that the individuals have Gilbert's  
22 Syndrome, may cause them to be ruled out of the trials.  
23 Therefore, where approximately 250 individuals would be  
24 required for phase 1 trials and about 6000 patients for  
25 phase 3 trials, unnecessary time and effort would have  
26 been spent during the first 5 days of these trials and  
27 individuals having Gilbert's Syndrome may be ill  
28 effected.

29  
30 The present invention aims to provide a method of  
31 improving the efficacy of drug trials in view of the  
32 problems mentioned above.

33  
34 According to the present invention there is provided a  
35 method for improving the efficacy of drug trials, the  
36 method comprising the step of screening samples from

1 individuals for the genetic basis of Gilbert's  
2 Syndrome.

3  
4 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the method  
5 comprises the steps taking a sample from each potential  
6 participant in a drug trial, screening the samples for  
7 the genetic basis of Gilbert's Syndrome, identifying  
8 participants having the genetic basis of Gilbert's  
9 Syndrome.

10  
11 The sample may comprise blood, a buccal smear or any  
12 other sample containing DNA from the individual to be  
13 tested.

14  
15 In one embodiment the method comprises the further step  
16 of eliminating participants having the genetic basis of  
17 Gilbert's Syndrome from the drug trial.

18  
19 Alternatively the results of the drug trials can be  
20 interpreted in the knowledge that certain participants  
21 have Gilbert's Syndrome.

22  
23 Preferably the method comprises the steps of isolating  
24 DNA from each sample, amplifying the DNA in a region  
25 indicating the genetic basis of Gilbert's Syndrome,  
26 isolating amplified DNA fragments by gel  
27 electrophoresis and identifying individuals having the  
28 genetic basis of Gilbert's disease.

29  
30 Preferably the DNA is amplified using the polymerase  
31 chain reaction (PCR) using a radioactively labelled  
32 pair of nucleotide primers.

33  
34 The primers are designed to prime the amplification  
35 reaction at either side of an area of the genome known  
36

1 to be associated with Gilbert's Syndrome.

2  
3 Preferably the DNA region indicating the genetic basis  
4 of Gilbert's Syndrome is the gene encoding UDP-  
5 glucuronosyltransferase (UGT).

6  
7 By gene is meant, the non coding and coding regions and  
8 the upstream and downstream noncoding regions.

9  
10 In a preferred embodiment the DNA to be amplified is in  
11 an upstream promoter region of the UGT1\*1 exon1.

12  
13 Most preferably the DNA to be amplified includes the  
14 region between -35 and -55 nucleotides at the 5' end of  
15 UGT1\*1 exon.

16  
17 According to the invention there are provided suitable  
18 primers for use in a PCR reaction including primer  
19 pairs;

20  
21 (A, 5'-AAGTGAAGTCCCTGCTACCTT-G',  
22 B, 5'-CCACTGGGATCAACAGTATCT-3') or  
23 C/D (C, 5'-GTCACGTGACACAGTCAAAC-3';  
24 D 5'-TTTGCTCCTGCCAGAGGTT-3')

25  
26 The invention further comprises a kit for screening  
27 individuals for participation in drug trials, the kit  
28 comprising primers for amplifying DNA in a region of  
29 the genome indicating the genetic basis of Gilbert's  
30 Syndrome.

31  
32 Using primer sequences as described herein, DNA can be  
33 amplified and analysed using among others any of the  
34 following protocols;

35  
36 Protocol 1 Radioactive method



- 1     1.     Extract DNA from Buccal Cells or 3ml Blood.
- 2
- 3
- 4     2.     Choose primers from either side of the "TATA" box
- 5             region of UGT1\*1 exon1 regulatory sequence.
- 6             Freshly end label one primer with [ $\gamma$   $^{32}\alpha$ ]-ATP (40
- 7             min).
- 8
- 9     3.     Amplifying a small region up to 100 bp in length
- 10            by PCR (2h).
- 11
- 12    4.     Apply to 6% PAG denaturing gel (preparation,
- 13            loading, run time, 4h).
- 14
- 15    5.     Expose (-70°C) wet gel to autoradiographic film
- 16            (15 min).
- 17

18     This method takes about 7h to complete. Polymorphisms  
19     only observed in TATA box non coding region todate.

20

#### 21     Protocol 2

#### 22     Alternative Radioactive Method: Solid Phase 23     Minisequencing

24

- 25    1.     Extract DNA (as above)
- 26
- 27    2.     Prepare primers biotinylating one
- 28
- 29    3.     Amplify DNA by PCR using primers
- 30
- 31    4.     Captive biotinylated PCR products on streptavidin
- 32            coated support and deactive.
- 33
- 34    5.     Carry out primer extension reaction sequencing.
- 35

#### 36     Protocol 3

1 Non-Radioactive Methods:

2

3 (a) Analysis by Single Strand Conformational  
4 Polymorphism (SSCP)

5 1. Extract DNA (as above).

6

7 2. Choose primers either side of the TATA Box.

8

9 3. Amplify a small region up to 100 bp in length by  
10 PCR (2H).

11 4. Denature and place on ice (15 min).

12

13 5. Load onto a non-denaturing PAG gel,  
14 (preparation/load/run time, 4h).

15

16 6. Stain with Ethidium bromide or silver nitrate (30  
17 mm).

18

19 This method still takes about 7h to complete, but is  
20 potentially slightly cheaper since there is no  
21 radioactivity or autoradiography.

22

23 This method could be done on an automated DNA sequencer  
24 from stage 5, if primers are tagged with chromophores  
25 in PCR stages 2 and 3. Result would then be read  
26 automatically.

27

28 (b) Oligonucleotide Assay Hybridization

29

30 1. Extract DNA (as above).

31

32 2. Choose primers and amplify DNA by PCR up to 100 bp  
33 in length.

34

35 3. Apply DNA to plastic grids.

36

1 4. Screen bound DNA samples with specific DNA probes  
2 for TA<sub>5</sub>, TA<sub>6</sub>, TA<sub>7</sub> tagged with different  
3 coloured/fluorescent chromophores.  
4

5 5. Read output automatically for experimental  
6 protocols.  
7

8 References  
9

10 (a) Monaghan G et al. Lancet (1996) 347 578-581.  
11

12 (b) "Detection of polymorphisms of human DNA by gel  
13 electrophoresis or single-strand conformational  
14 polymorphisms". Orita M et al. Proc Natl Acad  
15 Sci (USA) (1989) 86 2766-2700.  
16

17 (c) "Assays of complementary oligonucleotides for  
18 analysing Hybridization behaviour of Nucleic  
19 Acids". Southern E M. Nuc Acids Res (1994) 22  
20 1368-1373.  
21  
22

1 The basis of the invention is illustrated in the  
2 following example with reference to the accompanying  
3 figures wherein:

4  
5 Figure 1 illustrates genotypes at the TATA box sequence  
6 upstream of the UGT1\*1 exon 1 determined by direct  
7 sequencing and radioactive PCR. A photographic  
8 representation of the sense DNA sequences obtained by  
9 PCR/direct sequencing of DNA samples having the  
10 genotypes 6/6, 6/7 and 7/7. The common allele,  
11 (TA)<sub>6</sub>TAA, is denoted by "6" while the rarer allele,  
12 (TA)<sub>7</sub>TAA, is denoted by "7". Below each sequence is an  
13 overexposed photographic representation of the 98 to  
14 100bp resolved fragments amplified using primer pair  
15 C/D which flank the TATA sequence upstream of the  
16 UGT1\*1 exon 1. The additional fragments of 99 and 101  
17 bases are thought to be artifacts of the PCR process  
18 where there is non specified addition of an extra  
19 nucleotide to the 3' end of the amplified product<sup>21</sup>.  
20 Figures 1b illustrates results after testing a range of  
21 unknown individuals.

22  
23 Figure 2 illustrates serum total bilirubin ( $\mu\text{mol/l}$ )  
24 plotted against UGT1\*1 exon 1 genotype. Males (M) and  
25 females (F) are plotted separately. Each circle/square  
26 represents the result of a single control subject. The  
27 squares indicate the 14 controls who also underwent the  
28 24 hour restricted diet (see Methods). The filled  
29 circles/squares represent those who had a lower than  
30 normal PSAT ( $\leq 22\%$ ) while the half-tone circles  
31 represent those who had a higher than normal PSAT ( $\geq$   
32  $55\%$ ). The mean STB concentrations (indicated by the  
33 horizontal lines) for males were  $13.24 \pm 3.88$  (6/6),  
34  $13.94 \pm 6.1$  (6/7) including control h or  $12.69 \pm 3.34$   
35 excluding control h,  $29 \pm 14.45$  (7/7) and for females  
36 were  $9 \pm 3.62$  (6/6),  $12.2 \pm 3.53$  (6/7),  $21.6 \pm 7.8$

1 7/7). The encircled result is from control h  
2 (discussed in the text).

3  
4 Figure 3 illustrates segregation of the 7/7 genotype  
5 with elevated serum total bilirubin concentration in a  
6 family with GS. Males and females are represented by  
7 squares and circles, respectively. Filled and half-  
8 filled circles/squares indicate the genotypes 7/7 and  
9 6/7, respectively. The numbers in parentheses below  
10 each member of the pedigree are the STB concentrations  
11 measured after a 15 hour fast and 7 day abstinence from  
12 alcohol. All family members were non smokers who were  
13 not taking any medication when the biochemical tests  
14 were performed. Elevated STB are underlined.  
15 Individual members of each generation (I or II) are  
16 denoted by the numbers 1-4 above each circle/square.  
17 Generation III have not yet been tested.

18  
19 Figure 4 illustrates the 5' sequence of the UGT1\*1 exon  
20 1 and the position of the primers with respect to the  
21 UGT gene.

22  
23 Table 1

24 Comparison of the UGT1\*1 exon 1 genotype with elevation  
25 in the serum total bilirubin after a 24 hour 400-  
26 calorie restricted diet<sup>14</sup>. An elevation of the fasting  
27 STB to a final concentration in the range 25-50 $\mu$ mol/l  
28 is considered to be diagnostic for GS<sup>14</sup>. The 7/7  
29 subject denoted by \* has a fasting and non-fasting STB  
30 of  $> 50\mu$ mol/l but this value is within a range  
31 considered by others to conform to a diagnosis of GS<sup>7-11</sup>.

32  
33 Example

34  
35 We have examined the variation in the serum total  
36 bilirubin (STB) concentration in a representative group

1 of the Eastern Scottish population (drug-free, alcohol-  
2 free non-smokers) in relation to genotype at the UDP-  
3 glucuronosyltransferase subfamily 1 9UGT1) locus.  
4 Subjects with the 7/7 genotype in this population have  
5 a significantly higher STB than those with 6/7 or 6/6  
6 genotypes. Of 14 control subjects who underwent a 24  
7 hour fast to establish whether they had Gilbert  
8 Syndrome (GS), only 7/77 subjects had GS. In addition,  
9 one confirmed GS patient, two recurrent jaundice  
10 patients and 9 clinically diagnosed GS patients had the  
11 7/7 genotype. Segregation of the 7/7 genotype with  
12 elevated STB concentration has also been demonstrated  
13 in a family of 4 Gilbert members. This incidence of  
14 the 7/7 genotype in the population is 10-13%. Here, we  
15 demonstrate a correlation between variation in the  
16 human STB concentration and genotype at a TATA sequence  
17 upstream of the UGT1\*1 exon 1 and that the 7/7 genotype  
18 is diagnostic for GS.

19  
20 The inheritance of GS has been described as autosomal  
21 dominant or autosomal dominant with incomplete  
22 penetrance based on biochemical analysis<sup>6</sup>. More recent  
23 reports have suggested that the mildly affected  
24 (Gilbert) members of families in which CN type 2 (CN-2)  
25 occurs are heterozygous for mutations in the UDI<sup>3</sup>-  
26 glucuronosyltransferase subfamily 1 (UGT1) gene which  
27 cause CN-2 in the homozygous state. The inheritance of  
28 GS in these families is autosomal dominant while CN-2  
29 is autosomal recessive<sup>7-11</sup>. However, the incidence of  
30 CN-2 in the population is very rare and the frequency  
31 of alleles causing CN-2 would not be sufficient to  
32 explain the population incidence of GS.

33  
34 An abstract by Bosma et al<sup>12</sup> suggested a correlation  
35 between homozygosity for a 2bp insertion in the TATA  
36 box upstream of UGT1\*1 exon 1 and GS (no mutations were

1 found in the coding sequence of the UGT1\*1 gene). In  
2 this report we demonstrate that the primary genetic  
3 factor contributing to the variation in the serum total  
4 bilirubin (STB) concentration in the Eastern Scottish  
5 population is the sequence variation reported by Bosma  
6 et al<sup>12</sup>. In addition, we show that the 7/77 genotype is  
7 associated with GS and occurs in 10-13% of the  
8 population.

## 9 10 Methods

### 11 Patients and Controls

12 Whole blood (3ml) was collected into EDTA(K3)  
13 Vacutainer tubes (Becton Dickinson) from one confirmed  
14 male Gilbert patient (diagnosed following a 48 hour  
15 restricted diet<sup>13</sup>), two female patients with recurrent  
16 jaundice/associated elevated STB (29-42  $\mu$ mol/l) and 9  
17 (1 female, 8 male) clinically diagnosed GS subjects  
18 (persistent elevation of the STB amidst normal liver  
19 function tests.) The patients were aged 22-45 years.

20  
21 77 non-smoking residents selected at random from the  
22 Tayside/Fife region of Scotland (39 females aged 19-58  
23 years, mean 32.41  $\pm$  10.94; 38 males aged 23-57, means  
24 35.58  $\pm$  9.04) participated in this study. Whole blood  
25 (9ml) was collected 8-10am) into EDTA(K3) Vacutainer  
26 tubes (Becton Dickinson) for DNA extraction and SST  
27 Vacutainer tubes (Becton Dickinson) for biochemical  
28 investigations. The subjects had not taken any  
29 medication or alcohol in the previous 5-7 days and had  
30 fasted overnight (12 hours). 14 controls subsequently  
31 underwent further biochemical tests (following a 3 day  
32 abstinence from alcohol) before and after a 24 hour  
33 400-calorie diet<sup>14</sup> to determine if they had GS. All  
34 patients/controls were fully informed of the study and  
35 gave consent for their blood to be used in this study.

36

1 Biochemistry and DNA Extraction

2

3 The following biochemical tests were performed on  
4 control blood samples; alanine aminostransferase,  
5 albumin, alkaline phosphatase, amylase, STB,  
6 cholesterol, creatinine, creatine kinase, free  
7 thyroxine, gamma-glutamyl-transferase, glucose, HDL-  
8 cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol/total cholesterol, iron,  
9 lactate dehydrogenase, percentage of saturated  
10 transferrin (PSAT), proteins, serum angiotensin  
11 converting enzyme, thyroid stimulating hormone,  
12 transferrin, triglycerides, urate, urea. 14 controls  
13 also had pre- and post-fasting (24 hour) alanine  
14 aminostransferase, albumin, alkaline phosphatase, STB  
15 and urate measured. DNA was prepared using the Nucleon  
16 II Genomic DNA Extraction Kit (Scotlab) according to  
17 manufacturer's instructions.

18

19 Genotyping

20

21 Polymerase Chain Reaction

22

23 Primer pairs A/B (A, 5'-AAGTGAAGTCCCTGCTACCTT-3'; B,  
24 5'-CCACTGGGATCAACAGTATCT-3') or C/D (C, 5'-  
25 GTCACGTGACACAGTCAAAC-3'; D, 5'-TTTGCTCCTGCCAGAGGTT-3')  
26 flanking the TATA box sequence upstream of the UGT1\*1  
27 exon 1 were used to amplify fragments of 253-255bp and  
28 98-100bp, respectively. Amplifications (50µl) were  
29 performed in 0.2mM of each deoxynucleoside triphosphate  
30 (dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP), 50mM KCl, 10mM Tris.HCl (pH  
31 9.0 at 25°C), 0.1% Triton X-100, 1.5mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.25µM of  
32 each primer, 1 Unit of Taq Polymerase (Promega) and  
33 human DNA (0.25-0.5µg). The polymerase chain reaction  
34 (PCR) conditions using the Perkin-Elmer Cetus DNA  
35 Thermal Cycler were: 95°C 5 min followed by 30 cycles  
36 of 95° 30 sec, 58°C 40 sec, 72°C 40 sec.



1 Direct Sequencing

2  
3 Amplification was confirmed prior to direct sequencing  
4 by agarose gel electrophoresis. Sequencing was  
5 performed using [ $\alpha$ - $^{35}$ S]-dATP (NEN Dupont) with the USB  
6 Sequenase™ PCR Product Sequencing Kit according to  
7 manufacturer's instructions. Sequenced products were  
8 resolved on 6% denaturing polyacrylamide gels. The  
9 dried gels were exposed overnight to autoradiographic  
10 film prior to developing.

11

12 Radioactive PCR

13

14 Amplification was performed as above using primer pair  
15 C/D except that 2.5 pmol of primer C was radioactively  
16 5' end-labelled with 2.5  $\mu$ Ci of [ $\gamma$ - $^{32}$ P]-ATP (NEN Dupont)  
17 prior to amplification. Products were resolved on 6%  
18 denaturing polyacrylamide gels and the wet gels exposed  
19 to autoradiographic film (-70°C 15 min) and the  
20 autoradiographs developed.

21

22 Statistics

23

24 A t-test was used to determine if there was a  
25 significant age difference between males and females.  
26  $\chi^2$  analysis was used to assess any difference in the  
27 distribution of the 6/6, 6/7 and 7/7 genotypes in males  
28 and females and also to determine if the 7/7 subjects  
29 from the 24 hour fasted group had STB elevated into the  
30 range diagnostic for GS<sup>14</sup>. An analysis of variance was  
31 performed to compare mean STB in males and females  
32 within each genotype group. A non-parametric test, the  
33 Mann-Whitney U-Wilcoxon Rank Sum W Test was used to  
34 determine whether there was a significant difference in  
35 mean STB between males and females (irrespective of  
36 genotype). Correlations and significance tests were

1 performed for STB versus PSAT and STB versus iron. A  
2 probability (p) of  $< 0.05$  was accepted as significant.

3  
4 Results

5  
6 There was no significant age difference between males  
7 and females ( $t = -1.38$ ,  $p = 0.17$ ). Genotypes were  
8 determined initially by amplification/sequencing and  
9 later by the radioactive PCR approach. Individuals  
10 homozygous for the common allele, heterozygous or  
11 homozygous for the rarer allele have the genotypes 6/6,  
12 6/7 and 7/7, respectively. 12 DNA samples (2 of 6/6, 3  
13 of 6/7 and 4 of 7/7) were analysed by both methods and  
14 genotype results were identical (see Figure 1).

15  
16 Genotype frequencies in male controls were 6/6 (44.74%,  
17 6/7 (44.74%), 7/7 (10.52%) and in female controls were  
18 6/6 (35.9%), 6/7 (51.3%), 7/7 (12.8%). There was no  
19 significant difference between the genotype proportions  
20 in the two groups ( $\chi^2 = 0.6$  at 2 df,  $p = 0.7$ ). Control  
21 h (encircled in Figure 2) had a STB which was 2.4 SD  
22 above the mean STB for that group (mean calculated  
23 including control h). The results for control h were  
24 repeatable and he is currently being investigated to  
25 exclude haemochromatosis. Comparison of mean STB in  
26 males and females revealed that females have a  
27 significantly lower concentration than males ( $p = 0.031$   
28 including control h;  $p = 0.0458$  excluding control h).  
29 There was a strong correlation between genotype and  
30 mean STB concentration within the control group ( $p <$   
31  $0.001$ ) irrespective of whether control h was included  
32 and there was a significant difference in mean STB  
33 between males and females of the same genotype ( $p <$   
34  $0.05$ ) irrespective of whether control h was included  
35 (see Figure 2). All patients studied had the 7/7  
36 genotype.

1 Correlations between STB/PSAT ( $r = 0.4113$ ,  $p =$   
2  $0.001$ )(see Figure 2) and STB/iron females ( $p = 0.001$ )  
3 than males ( $p = 0.01$ ) but when control h is excluded  
4 there was no significant correlation in males.

5  
6 The STB concentrations of control who underwent the 24  
7 hour restricted diet (see Methods) are shown in Table  
8 1. The normal fasting response is a small rise in the  
9 base-line STB (not exceeding a final concentration of  
10  $25\mu\text{mol/l}$ ) most of which is unconjugated while GS  
11 patients have a lone biochemical feature a raised STB  
12 ( $>25\mu\text{mol/l}$  but  $<50\mu\text{mol/l}$ ) most of which is  
13 unconjugated<sup>14</sup>. The 6/6 and 6/7 controls had post-  
14 fasting STB of  $\leq 23\mu\text{mol/l}$  while all 7/77 controls were  
15  $\geq 31\mu\text{mol/l}$ . Other liver function tests were within  
16 acceptable ranges for the age and sex of the subjects.  
17 The 7/77 genotype correlates with a fasted STB (24  
18 hour) within the range diagnostic for GS<sup>14</sup> ( $p <$   
19  $0.01$ )(see Table 1). In addition, the 7/7 genotype  
20 segregates with elevated STB concentration in a family  
21 with 4 GS members (Figures 3).

## 22 23 Discussion

24  
25 A few recent reports claim to have identified the  
26 genetic cause of GS<sup>10-12</sup>. Clinical diagnosis of GS is  
27 often based on a consistent mildly elevated non-fasting  
28 STB ( $>17\mu\text{mol/l}$ ) as the sole abnormal liver function  
29 test, intermittent jaundice or both. The diagnosis can  
30 be confirmed by elevation of the STB to  $25-50\mu\text{mol/l}$   
31 after a 24 hour 400-calorie diet<sup>14</sup> or by elevation of  
32 the unconjugated bilirubin by  $> 90\%$  within 48 hours of  
33 commencing a 400 calorie diet<sup>13</sup>.

34  
35 Sato's research group recently reported the occurrence  
36 of 7 different heterozygous missense mutations in

1 unrelated Gilbert patients (most of the mutations have  
2 been found in the homozygous state in affected members  
3 of CN families), however, the non-fasted STB for these  
4 patients were  $> 52\mu\text{mol/l}$  (with the exception of one,  
5  $31\mu\text{mol/l}$ )<sup>10,12</sup>. These non-fasted STB concentrations  
6 already exceed the diagnostic range for GS<sup>14</sup>, hence  
7 these patients have a more severe form of  
8 hyperbilirubinaemia than those studied in this report,  
9 while those in the Bosma et al<sup>12</sup> abstract had STB  
10 concentrations similar to those studied here.

11  
12 The example herein shows that the variation in the STB  
13 levels after an overnight fast (and in the absence of  
14 exposure to known inducers of the UGT1\*1 isoform in GS,  
15 such as alcoholic<sup>15</sup> and drugs<sup>16</sup>) a representative group  
16 of the Eastern Scottish population is primarily due to  
17 (or associated with) the TATA box sequence variation  
18 reported by Bosma et al<sup>12</sup>. In agreement with previous  
19 work females have a significantly lower mean STB  
20 concentration than males<sup>17-18</sup>.

21  
22 Individuals with the 7/7 genotype in the population  
23 have GS (see Table 1). One of the 7/7 controls  
24 indicated in Table 1 had a non-fasting STB similar to  
25 those reported for heterozygous carriers of CN-2  
26 mutations<sup>7-11</sup> which suggests that this subject may also  
27 be a carrier of a CN-2 mutation, alternatively, the  
28 very elevated bilirubin in this patient may be due to  
29 the coexistence of Reavon's Syndrome (characterized by  
30 a collection of abnormal biochemical results which are  
31 risk factors for coronary heart disease)<sup>19</sup>.

32  
33 We have found that 10-13% of the Eastern Scottish  
34 population have the genotype associated with mild GS.  
35 None of the Gilbert subjects from the control  
36 population were aware that they had an underlying

1 metabolic defect in glucuronidation with testifies to  
2 its benign nature. Three 7/7 controls had STB  
3 concentrations comparable to mean levels observed in  
4 heterozygotes, however, they also had a lower than  
5 normal PSAT ( $\leq 22\%$ ) (see Figure 2). The observed  
6 correlation between STB and PSAT ( $p = 0.001$ ) (Figure 2)  
7 and STB and iron (females  $p = 0.001$  and males  $p = 0.01$   
8 including control h) indicates that other genetic and  
9 environmental factors affecting the serum PSAT and iron  
10 values will in turn affect the STB concentration.

11

12 From the data presented here and previous reports it  
13 seems clear that there are mild and more severe forms  
14 of GS. The milder form (fasted STB  $25-50\mu\text{mol/l}$ ) is  
15 either caused by (or is associated with) a homozygous  
16 2bp insertion at the TATA sequence upstream of the  
17 UGT1\*1 exon 1 (autosomal recessive inheritance) while  
18 the rarer more severe dominantly inherited forms  
19 identified to date<sup>7-11</sup> (non-fasted STB  $> 50\mu\text{mol/l}$ ) are due  
20 to heterozygosity for a mutation in the coding region  
21 of the UGT1\*1 gene which in its homozygous state causes  
22 CN-2. The particular genetic abnormality causing GS in  
23 a patient will have implications for genetic  
24 counselling as the dominantly inherited form of two GS  
25 patients could result in offspring with CN-2, whereas  
26 the recessive form in one or both GS patients would  
27 have less serious implications. It is important to  
28 discriminate between the two forms and provide suitable  
29 genetic counselling for such couples. The rapid DNA  
30 test presented here (less than 1 day for extracted DNA)  
31 carried out in addition to biochemical tests following  
32 a 12 hour overnight fast (without prior alcohol or drug  
33 intake would permit such a diagnosis. The compliance  
34 rate for the current 24 and 48 hour restricted diet  
35 tests for GS<sup>13-14</sup> is debatable and hence the overnight  
36 fast has obvious advantages and only one blood sample

1 or a buccal smear is required (for genetic and  
2 biochemical analysis) in contrast to the 2-3 blood  
3 samplings required for the 24 and 48 hour tests. This  
4 approach to GS testing would be cost effective in terms  
5 of fewer patient return visits to clinics and in  
6 identifying couples at risk of having children with  
7 CN-2.

8  
9 In addition, the recent finding of an increased  
10 bioactivation of acetaminophen (a commonly used  
11 analgesic which is eliminated primarily by  
12 glucuronidation) in GS patients indicates the greater  
13 potential for drug toxicity in these patients if  
14 administered drugs which are also conjugated by UGT1  
15 isoforms<sup>3</sup>. In fact, ethinylestradiol (EE2) has recently  
16 been shown to be primarily glucuronidated by the UGT1\*1  
17 isoform in man<sup>20</sup> and hence this could have implications  
18 for female Gilbert patients taking the oral  
19 contraceptive who are then more predisposed to  
20 developing jaundice.

21  
22  
23 The tests outlined herein have obvious implications for  
24 setting up drug trials in understanding unusual results  
25 in ruling out individuals who may be adversely affected  
26 by the drugs or impositively choosing these individuals  
27 to determine the effects of particular drugs on  
28 hyperbilirubinaemia.

29

## References

- 1 Fevery, J. Pathogenesis of Gilbert Syndrome. *Eur. J. Clin. Invest.* 1981;11; 417-418.
- 2
- 3 2. Watson, K.J.R. and Gollan, J.L. Gilbert's
- 4 Syndrome. *Bailliere's Clinical Gastroenterology*
- 5 1989; 3: 337-355.
- 6
- 7 3. De Morais, S.M.F., Uetrecht, J.P. and Wells, P.G.
- 8 Decreased glucuronidation and increased
- 9 bioactivation of acetaminophen in Gilbert's
- 10 Syndrome. *Gastroenterology* 1992; 102: 577-586.
- 11
- 12 4. Carulli, N., Ponz de Leon, M., Mauro, E., Manenti,
- 13 F and Ferrari, A. Alteration of drug metabolism in
- 14 Gilbert's Syndrome. *Gut* 1976; 17: 581-587.
- 15
- 16 5. Macklon, A.F., Savage, R.L. and Rawlins, M.D.
- 17 Gilbert Syndrome and drug metabolism. *Clin.*
- 18 *Pharmacokinetics* 1979; 4: 223-232.
- 19
- 20 6. Thompson, R.P.H. Genetic transmission of
- 21 Gilbert's Syndrome in "Familial
- 22 Hyperbilirubinaemia", (Ed. L. Okoliosanyi), *John*
- 23 *Wiley & Sons Ltd*; 91-97.
- 24
- 25 7. Gollan, J.L. Huang, S.N., Billing, B. and
- 26 Sherlock, S. Prolonged survival in three brothers
- 27 with severe type 2 Crigler-Najjar Syndrome.
- 28 *Gastroenterology* 1975; 68: 1543-1555.
- 29
- 30 8. Moghrabi, N., Clarke, D.J., Boxer, M. and
- 31 Burchell, B. Identification of an A-to-G missence
- 32 mutation in exon 2 of the UGT1 gene complex that
- 33 causes Crigler-Najjar Syndrome type 2. *Genomics*
- 34
- 35
- 36

- 1993; 18: 171-173.
9. Moghrabi, N.N. Molecular Genetic Analysis of the Human Phenol and Bilirubin UDP-Glucuronosyltransferase Gene Complex and Associated Disease Syndromes. *PhD thesis* 1994, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland.
10. Aono, S., Adachi, Y., Uyama, E., Yamada, Y., Keino, H., Nanno, T., Koiwai, O. and Sato, H. Analysis of genes for bilirubin UDP-glucuronosyltransferase in Gilbert's Syndrome, *Lancet* 1995; 345: 958-959.
11. Koiwai, O., Nishizawa, M., Hasada, K., Aono, S., Adachi, Y., Mamiya, N. and Sato, H. Koiwai, O., Nishizawa, M., Hasada, K., Aono, S., Adachi, Y., Mamiya, N. and Sato, H. Gilbert's Syndrome is caused by a heterozygous missense mutation in the gene for bilirubin UDP-glucuronosyltransferase. *Hum. Molec. Genet.* 1995; 4: 1183-1186.
12. Bosma, P., Goldhoorn, B., Bakker, C., Out, T., Roy Chowdhury, J., Roy Chowdhury, N., Oostra, B., Lindhout, D., Michiels, J., Jansen, P., Tytgat, G. and Oude Elferink, R. Presence of an additional TA in the TATAA box of B-UGT1 correlates with Gilbert Syndrome. *Hepatology* October 1994; Abstract 680: 226A.
13. Owens, D. and Sherlock, S. Diagnosis of Gilbert's Syndrome: role of reduced calorie intake test. *Br. Med.J.* 1973; 3: 559-563.
14. Lascelles, P.T. and Donaldson, D. Calorie restriction test in "Diagnostic Function Tests in



- 1 Chemical Pathology" *Kluwer Academic Publishers*  
2 1989: 24-25.  
3
- 4 15. Ideo, G., De Franchis, R., Del Ninno, E. and  
5 Dioguardi, N. Ethanol increases liver uridine-  
6 diphosphate-glucuronosyltransferase. *Experientia*  
7 1971; 27: 24-25.  
8
- 9 16. Sutherland, L.T., Ebner, T. and Burchell, B.  
10 Expression of UDP-Glucuronosyltransferases (UGT) 1  
11 family in human liver and kidney. *Biochem.*  
12 *Pharmacol.* 1993; 45: 295-301.  
13
- 14 17. Owens, D. and Evans, J. Population studies on  
15 Gilbert Syndrome. *J. Med. Genet.* 1975;12: 152-  
16 156.  
17
- 18 18. Bailey, A., Robinson, D. and Dawson, A.M. Does  
19 Gilbert's disease? *Lancet* 1977; 1: 931-933.  
20
- 21 19. Reaven, G.M. Syndrome X: 6 years later. *J.*  
22 *Intern. Med.* 1994; 236: 13-22.  
23
- 24 20. Ebner. T., Remmel, R.P. and Burchell, B. Human  
25 bilirubin UDP-glucuronosyltransferase catalyses  
26 the glucuronidation of ethinylestradiol. *Molec.*  
27 *Pharmacol.* 1993; 43: 649-654.  
28
- 29 21. Edwards, A., Hammond, H.A., Jin, L., Caskey, C.T.  
30 and Chakraborty, R. Genetic variation at five  
31 trimeric and tetrameric tandem repeat loci in four  
32 human population groups. *Genomics* 1992; 12: 241-  
33 253.  
34
- 35  
36 /home/vsl/data/pl7218

Figure 1a

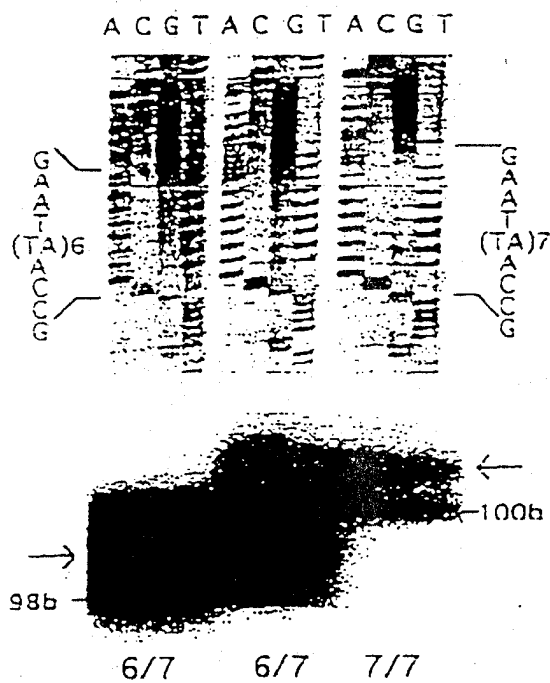
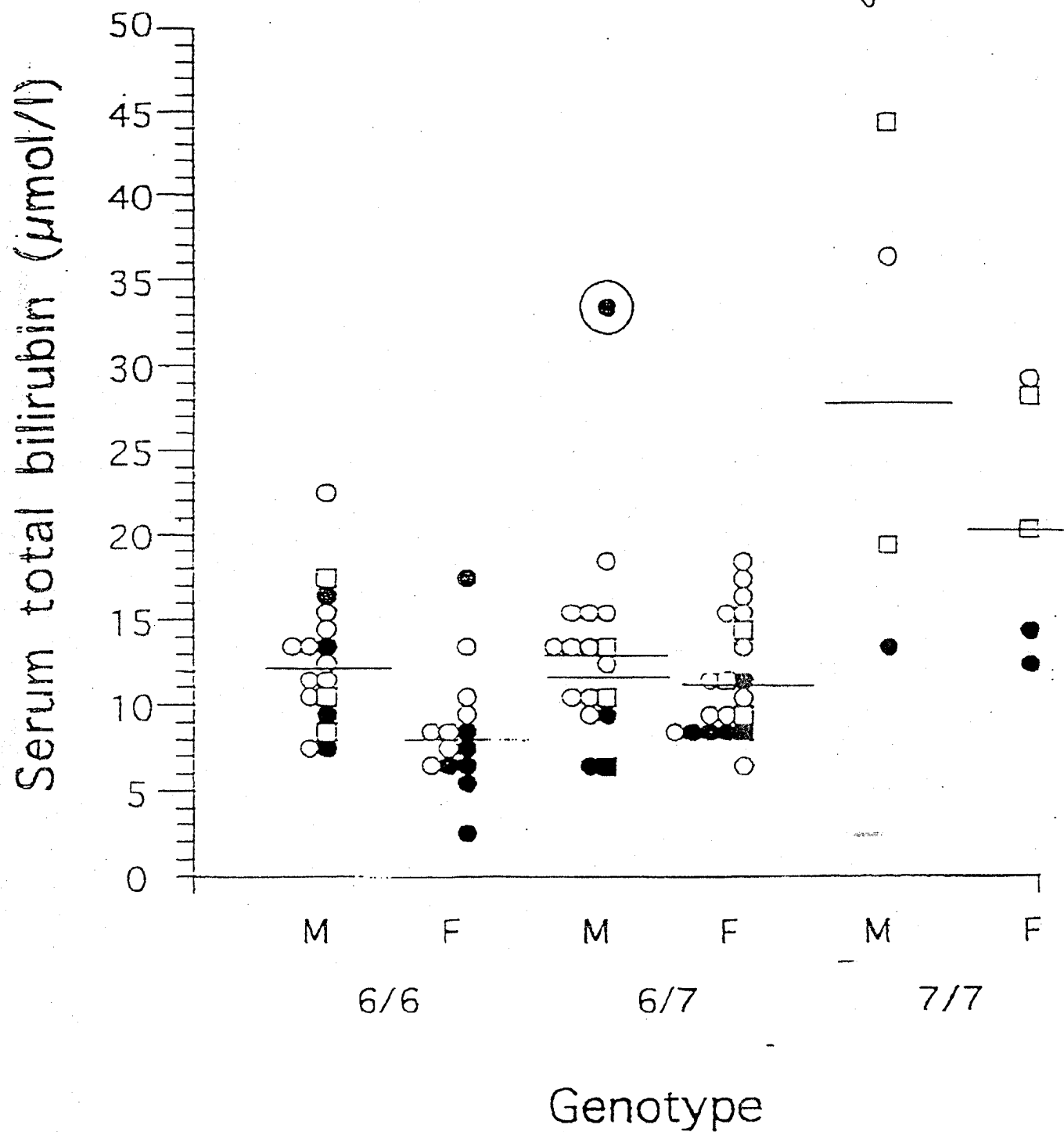


Figure 1b

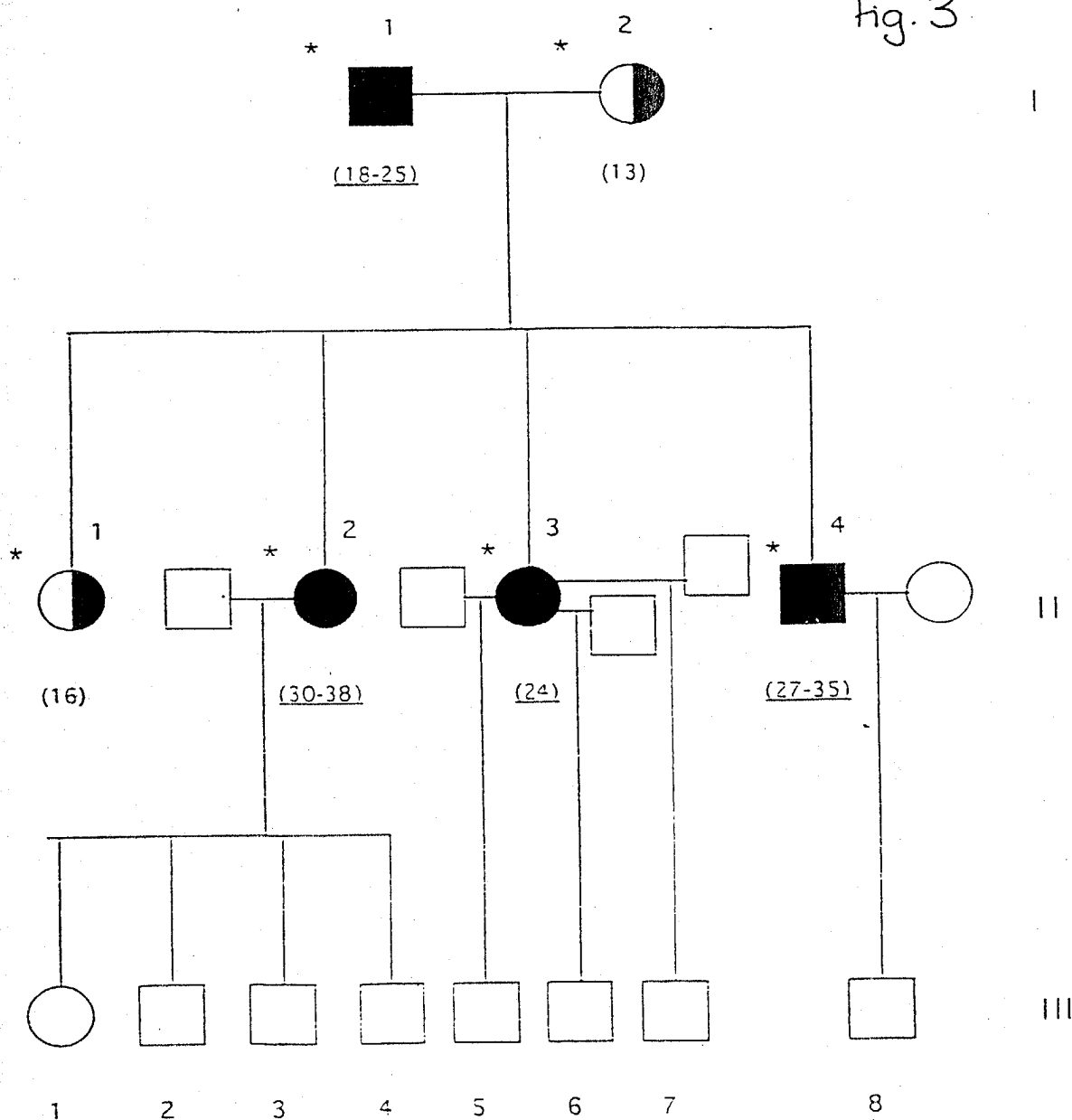


Figure 2



pedigree showing segregation of the Gilbert  
Phenotype with the  $(TA)_7TAA$  /  $(TA)_7TAA$  Genotype.

Fig. 3



I, II, III = generations in family      \* = genetic and biochemical data available

□ male

■ ● homozygotes for the  $(TA)_7TAA$  allele

○ female

◐ ◑ heterozygotes for the  $(TA)_7TAA$  and  $(TA)_6TAA$  alleles

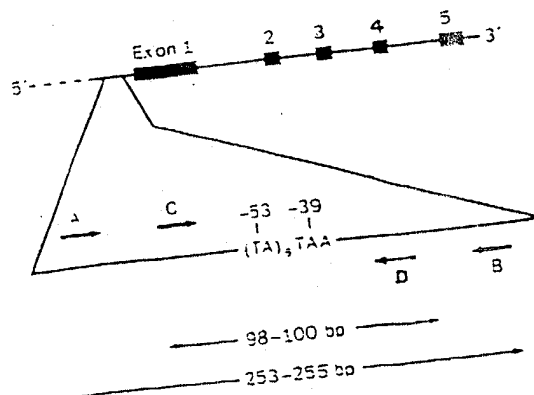
(13) = total serum bilirubin

(18-25) = elevated total serum bilirubin

Figure 4

5

-611 GTGAGTCTGGCTCACCTCATGGCGGTGGCTCGTGTGGTGGGCTCTGCTGCAGCCTCAA  
 -541 GACACCACACTGTGCTGGACTCAATAAATAATGTTGGACGAAGGAATGAAACACATGATA  
 -491 CAAGTGAGCAGGCAGTACCGGGGGAGCTGTGGAGTGGGCACTCTTACAGGTTTCCATGGC  
 -431 GAAAGCGGGGGGACAGTTGTGTTCTTTTCTTTCTAAAAGGCTTTCTAAAAGCCTTCTGT  
 -371 TTAATTTCTGGAAAAGAAGCCTAACTGTTCACTACATAGTCGTCCTTCTTCTCTCTGG  
 -311 TAACACTTGTGTTGGTCTGTGGAAATACTAATTAAATGGATCCTGAGGTTCTGGAAGTACTT  
 -251 TGCTGTGTTCACTCAAGAATGTGATTTGAGTATGAAATCCAGCCAGTTCAACTGTTGTT  
 -191 GCCTATTAAGAAACCTAATAAAGCTCCACCTTCTTTATCTCTGAAAGTGAACCTCCCTGCT  
 -131 ACCTTTGTGGACTGACAGCTTTTTATAGTCACGTGACACAGTCAAACATTAAGTGGTGT  
 -71 ATCGATTGGTTTTTGGCCATATATATATATAAGTAGGAGAGGGCGAACCTCTGGCAGGA  
 -11 GCAAAGGCGCCATGGCTGTG



Genotype	Sex	24 hour fast		Fasting bilirubin >25 & <50 $\mu$ mol/l
		Before	After	
6/6	M	8	17	NO
	M	9	19	NO
	M	12	15	NO
6/7	F	8	17	NO
	F	9	13	NO
	F	11	12	NO
	F	12	17	NO
	M	8	10	NO
	M	15	23	NO
	M	17	18	NO
7/7	F	9	34	YES
	F	12	34	YES
	M	19	31	YES
	M	62	96	NO <sup>*</sup>

TABLE 1